

~~TOP SECRET~~

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TS 77762

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31 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL CABELL

SUBJECT: Access by CIA to Key Intelligence Photographs

1. Attached find memorandum from AD/IR in whose recommendations I heartily concur. But I have refrained from calling General Samford until I have a chance to check with you.

25X1D

2. My information is that photographs taken [redacted] have been studied only for intelligence of possible Soviet air build-up. Other intelligence of great value dealing with the general exploitation of the area could doubtless be gleaned from these photographs. Such additional data will be materially greater with respect to [redacted] in which are located [redacted] facilities, etc. I can see no point whatsoever in CIA's concurring in these missions if their product is not to be exploited fully from all intelligence points of view.

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3. I have also just learned that the photographs which disclosed the important airfield development [redacted] were actually taken in August by the Navy and were kept from the entire intelligence community on the ground that they were operational. Only by chance were they leaked to our people overseas in the latter part of October. Thus intelligence was kept in the dark as to an important development for two months and would likely be still in the dark except for an accident.

25X1D

4. It is clear that the President, General Cutler, General Carroll, etc. believe that Mr. Dulles and the appropriate officials of this Agency are fully informed of all significant enemy data available to the Government. It seems to me that we must without delay take emphatic action to see that this is the case, and if we run into adamant opposition we must enlist the support of the White House.

NOTE BY DD/I, 7 November 1953: "DDI returned to DDI with promise to back our demands for legit access to such photos "to the hilt" but refused to set advance condition on our clearance of flights."

ROBERT AMORY, JR.  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

Attachment

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